

What is New for Wildland Fire Protection

- **Focus on forest health:** Forest health and fire are closely connected. Based on the ecology of Washington's forests, our understanding of the role that fire plays in healthy forests is increasing. A forest's ability to withstand stresses such as drought, fire, insects and diseases is directly affected by complex interactions of many biological and non-biological factors.
- **Forest Health Landscape Pilot Project:** Forest health respects no ownership boundaries. The Plan calls for an early pilot project to demonstrate how forest health can reduce public costs and reduce both timber and non-timber resource losses.
- **Focus on lowest net costs:** A net cost framework provides a starting point to evaluate different solutions. Solutions will recognize the various types of risk and the net effect of resources while acknowledging the different parties at risk. Understanding risks from forest health and wildfire will create a true forest protection program which better protects people and the environment they value.
- **Focus on avoided costs and non-market values:** There are substantial savings for taxpayers and the public when fuels reduction projects are completed. Substantial costs can be avoided when both market and non-market values are part of wildland fire protection decisions.
- **Focus on personal and institutional responsibilities:** Decisions by individual property owners and land-use or other regulatory authorities can reduce or increase costs and risks to private property and the public.
- **Development of the Elements for a Model Wildfire Protection Ordinance:** With over 600,000 new homes in Washington by 2020, actions we take today can reduce public safety risks and reduce costs. Many of these homes will be in the wildlands urban interface where wildfire protection has become increasingly complex and costly. The *Plan* calls for the collaborative development of elements of a model wildfire protection ordinance.
- **Create Universal Fire Protection.** Current state law does not require universal fire protection, creating tension both for property owners and those who provide fire protection services. Fire protection should be required for all land in Washington.

Wildfire historically has—and for the foreseeable future will have—significant impact on the quality of life in Washington State. After all, this is the Evergreen State—forests are a signature resource (about half of Washington is forested), and wildfire is a major factor in creating and maintaining the Washington forests we know and love.

For only the *Strategic Plan for Wildfire Protection, Phase 1*: [Strategic Plan.pdf](#)

For the *Pathway to 2020, Phase II* which also contains the *Strategic Plan* plus background and detailed analyses, go to: [Pathway_2020.pdf](#)